AN ACCOUNT OF THE EXPEDITION TO *BELLISLE.*

Compoſed from authentic Materials; and containing many curious Particulars hitherto not known.

Inſtat vi Patria Pyrrhus! nec clauſtra nec ulli
Cuſtodes ſufferre valent! VIRG.

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BIBLIOTHECA BODLEIANA

AN ACCOUNT OF THE EXPEDITION TO *BELLISLE.*

AS the Crown of *Great Britain* cannot diſtreſs *France* more than by ravaging her Coaſts, and overunning her Iſles; ſo the Peruſal of an Expedition, which had each of theſe for its Object, may not be diſagreeable.

The Expedition to *Belliſle* was firſt ſchem'd by Mr. *Pitt*, about the 25th of *February* laſt, and entered upon without making any Perſon privy to it; the whole was conducted under the Name of a *ſecret Expedition*, whoſe Deſtination every one gueſſed at, but no one except he certainly knew. The Troops rendezvouzed at *Portſmouth*, and ſeveral Draughts were made from the Regiments of Foot-Guards, in Order to ſtrike the greater

Terrour into the Enemy; and beſides the Draughts from the Guards. The Regiments of the Earl of *Loudon*, Lord *Henry Beauclerc*, the Earl of *Panmure*, thoſe of *Rufane*, *Colville*, *Gray*, *Stewart*, *Whitmore*, *Erſkine*, *Morgan*, and the *Scots Fuzeleers*, with the Firſt Battalion of Colonel *Crawford*'s, and four Independant Companies of Lord *Pultney*'s Regiment under the Command of Major General *Hodgson*, the Brigadeir Generals *John Crawford*, *Richard Rufane*, and *Thomas Howe*; and with theſe were three Companies of the Train of Artillery, under Col. *Deſaguliers* and Captain *Williams*, with a Company of Miners commanded by Captain *Muckle*, making in the whole 9000 Men, 12 Mortars of 13 Inch Boar, 20 of 9 Inch Boar, and 50 Pieces of Cannon from 16 to 24 Pounders, a great Number of ſcaling Ladders, Tents, and Pontoons, all the Companies being compleat, and each private Soldier furniſhed with thirty Round of Cartridge Shot, if Occaſion ſhould call for entering upon Action.

From the Time of their Arrival at *Portſmouth*, they diſcovered the greateſt Spirit and Alacrity, to which the expeditious Equipment of the Fleet, not a little contributed: And which conſiſted of the following Ships of the Line: The *Sandwich* of 90 Guns, Captain *Richard Norbury*; *Valiant* 74, the Honourable *Auguſtus Keppel*, Commodore, Captain *Adam Dungan*; the *Superbe* 74, Captain *Joſhua Rowley*; *Dragon* 74, Captain *Archibald Cleveland*; *Temeraire* 74, Captain *Matthew*

Mathew Barton; *Torbay* 74, Captain *William Brett*; *Swiftſure* 68, Sir *Thomes Stanhope*, ſecond in Command; *Eſſex* 64, Captain *Alexander Schomberg*; *Hampton Court* 66, Captain *Carr Scroope*; *Achilles* 60, Honourable *Samuel Barrington*; *Alcide* 64, Captain *Thomas Hankerſon*; *Prince of Orange* 60, Captain *Samuel Wallis*: The Frigates *Lanceſton*, *Southampton*, *Flamborough*, *Aldborough*, *Lynn*, and *Adventure*, ; the Sloops *Eſcorte*, *Alderney*, and *Fly*; the *Fire-Drake* and *Infernal* Bombs; the *Veſuvius* and *Ætna* Fire-Ships; two Cutters, and one Chaſſe Maree, with 100 Tranſports.

On a Signal given from the Commodore, all theſe Ships were on their Way about Six in the Morning of the 28th of *March*, but the Wind chopping from N W to S *b* E, they were obliged to wear to *Spithead*, where they continued till next Morning, and then ſailed down the Channel, with a fair Wind from the Eaſt: A View of Ten Ships of the Line, Six Frigates, Two Fire-Ships, and a Hundred Tranſports, all under Sail with a fair Wind, and a ſmooth Sea, yielded the gayeſt and moſt delightful Aſpect; every one was in high Spirits, tho' the Orders were ſealed, and were diſcharged to be opened, till free of the Chops of the Channel, and out of Sight of the *Engliſh* Coaſt: The private Soldiers had an intire Confidence in the Ability of the Generals, and the Sailors were not leſs eaſy with reſpect to the Commodore and other

Sea-

Sea-Officers; and theſe were fully perſwaded of the Uprightneſs of the Prime Miniſter, who, they knew would be far from ſending them upon unſoldier-like Actions, or expecting the Accompliſhments of what was impracticable.

The favourableneſs of the Weather was not of long Continuance; for the Wind increaſed, and the Sea became tempeſtuous and raging, till about the Sixth of *April*, when coming to the Weſtward, the Fleet was enabled to ſteer in with the Coaſt of *France*, whether, about two Days before, they found, by opening their Inſtructions, that the Expedition was intended. And that Night about Six in the Evening, they had the firſt View of the Iſland of *Belliſle*, bearing S *b* E from them: And which was now provided with Troops and every other Thing neceſſary for giving both the Sea and Land Forces a warm Reception.

For the Duke de *Aiguillon*, a Nobleman endowed with ſuch Coolneſs of Temper as not to be provoked by Inſults into Raſhneſs, nor to be allured into Danger by the moſt artful Methods of Enticing, had provided againſt the worſt Events. That Officer had the Command of the *French* Troops upon the Coaſt, and had ordered Signals to be erected at every Quarter of a Mile, from *Cherburgh* to *Breſt*, and from *Breſt* to *Bayonne*, upon the Coaſt, and from thence to *Paris*, up into the Country, that a Landing of Troops, at any

Port

Port, would have been known in half an Hour. That great Commander had ſerved under the Prince of *Conti*, in *Italy*, and had defeated the *Britiſh* Troops at St. *Cas*, *Sept.* 11th, 1758. Unfortunately for the Expedition, *Belliſle*, as one of the Iſlands that lies in the Bay of *Biſcay*, was under his Juriſdition; and, as he, by repeated Imformations, from Deſerters and others, was appriſed of the intended Expedition, and with great Sagacity gueſſed its Deſtination.

He ſent a Detachment of 2500 Troops, and a Company of Matroſſes, with three able Engineers, to Brigadier *S. la Croix* the Governour, to whom he communicated all his Intelligence, at the ſame Time aſſuring him, that, from the Complexion of the whole Preparations and Armaments, the Place of his Reſidence was the Object the Enemy had fixed on: And indeed it muſt be owned, that notwithſtanding the Secrecy uſed on the Part of the Miniſter, yet too many Circumſtances, in conducting of it, ſpoke it too plainly: The Cloths of the Troops, which ought to have been carried on Ship-board in the Night-time, were ſeen by Thouſands; as were the Flat-Bottom-Boats, and Proviſions. The Word *Expedition* rung throughout *England*; the News-Papers were every Day filled with Accounts of it, and every News Writer ſtrove to get the trueſt Intelligence: The different Preparations were ſo minutely deſcribed, that unleſs the *French* had judged the *London* Intel-

Intelligencers to be the adept Scholars of Monſieur *Maubert*, they muſt have gueſſed at the Diſtination.

However, tho' this might eaſily occur to the *Britiſh* Commanders, who laid their Account with a warm Reception, yet they perſiſted in their Reſolution of attacking *Belliſle*; and here it will not be foreign to the Purpoſe, if we give a Deſcription of it.

The Iſland of *Belliſle*, * which in Shape almoſt reſembles a Mans Ear, lies in the Bay of *Biſcay*, about 100 Miles S *b* E of *Breſt*, 96 N W of *Rochelle* nearly; it is within Ten Miles of the neareſt Land upon the Coaſt of *France*, between which and it, the Sea runs with a very impetuous Current, which (about the Middle of it) is abſorbed by a ſpacious Bay, lying between the City *Vannes* and *Quiberon*; and between that Bay and it, lies an Iſland, which is about half as large as itſelf; it is about Twelve Miles long, and Four broad, at a Medium; is 3 deg. 12 m, Weſt of *London*, and extends from Lat. 47°. 14'. to 47°. 26'; in a Climate ſo moderate, that the Cattle winter in the Field throughout the Year: And the Inhabitants manure the Soil plentifully, with a fatning Weed, called *Gneſmon*, which produces the richeſt Harveſts, and theſe have ſcarce ever been known to fail. It, likewiſe, produces ſuch prodigious Quantities of Salt, as to ſupply the whole

* *The beautiful Iſland called by the* Greeks Caloneſus.

whole Weſtern Coaſt of *France* with that Commodity: It contains one ſmall City, four Towns, and 103 Villages, beſides Hamletts and Farm-Houſes; is very ſtrong by Nature, being fenced almoſt on every Quarter with Rocks and Precipices; and ſo interſperſed with craggy Mountains, that its Valleys are not only ſcreened from the Wind and Rain, but the Roads are ſo broken and ſteep, as to be very difficult for foot Paſſengers, and unſurmountable to Baggage or heavy Carriages.

Almoſt in the Middle of the North Coaſt of the Iſland, lies *Palais* the Capital; a Place defended on every Quarter by Nature, and by a Citadel, which is a regular and ſtrong Fortification; it is well ſupplied with freſh Water, by Means of two deep Draw-Wells in it, between which and the City, runs an Inlett of the Sea, and over this there is a Draw-Bridge of thirty Feet in Length, ſo that the Fort is in any Event a Peninſula; from the Sea it is impregnable, as no Ships can lie near it, by Reaſon of the Current; its Fortification is a regular Hornwork, * and is ſecured by two dry Ditches, into which the Water may be let at Pleaſure: The Town itſelf is ſecured by two dry Ditches, and a great Part of the Country can eaſily be laid under Water; ſo that the Conqueſt was both difficult and glorious:

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* *Compoſed of two Demibaſtions, a Ravelin, a Ditch, and two Countergards.*

ous: And tho' the Charges of the Expedition § be ſufficient to buy the ſimple Fee of *Belliſle*, with all its Forts, and what is upon it, as alſo the little Iſles of *Howat* and *Hedu*, that lie before it; yet the Purchaſe is well worthy any Pains that can be taken, ſince it abounds with a fine Fiſhery; is the firſt Land the *French* Mariners make in their Return from the *Eaſt* or *Weſt-Indies*, and can be ſeen at the Diſtance of Forty Leagues; it is the Place where the *French* Fleets rendezvous, before they proceed to either of theſe, or to the Mediterranean, nor is it any Wonder, ſince the Road of *Palais* can contain the largeſt Navy in the World; and the Poſſeſſion of this Place will furniſh *Great Britain* with as ſtrong a Curb of the *French* Trade, in the Bay of *Biſcay*, as the retaining of *Gibraltar* gives to the *Spaniſh* in the Mediterranean.

It will not appear incredible that the Enemy at this Time improved every Advantage, by putting their Forts in repair, driving up the Cattle into the Town, ſending the uſeleſs Mouths of old Men, Women and Children to the Continent, ſpoiling the Roads, raiſing Redoubts, cleaning the Ditches, and bruſhing up their Arms to be ready upon an Emergency. Nay, the Brigadier *St. la Croix*, the Governour, cauſed Signals to be erected at the ſhorteſt Intervals, and diſpoſed his Troops to be ready to annoy the Aſſailants in any Quarter wherever

§ *About One Million and a Half Sterling.*

ever they ſhould think fit to enter. In a Word, they had been at Work ever ſince the Time of Sir *Edward Hawk*'s Appearance before it laſt Winter.

None of theſe Things could deter the brave Commanders of the Expedition, from proſecuting what was ſo well intended, for putting a Period to the War; for no ſooner had they a Sight of *Belliſle*, than Commodore *Keppel* detached Six Frigates, in order to cut off the Enemies Communication with the Continent.

Next Day, at Sun riſing, the Fleet paſſed the South-End of the Iſle, cloſe along the Shore, from which the Wind was blowing very fiercely: However, at Twelve o'Clock, the whole Fleet anchored in the great Road, where the flat-bottom Boats were preparing for the Reception of the Troops, while the General and Commodore ſailed to the Northern Part of the Iſland, in order to get the ſureſt Imformation of the Strength and Condition of the Enemy, and where it would be moſt practicable to land.

After a narrow Inſpection, they determined upon *Port de Andro* * as the fitteſt Place for making the Attack: Accordingly about ſix o'Clock next Morning, being the Eighth,

* *This Port is a large Bay into which a deep Rivulet runs from the Country, and is near* Locmaria, *where they firſt anchored.*

and the Wind at N E, the Signal was made for the Boats to aſſemble at the Place of Rendezvouz, and in the mean time three Ships, with two Bomb Veſſels, were ordered to double the Point of *Locmaria*, in order to ſilence a Four-gun Battery that commanded the Entrance of the Bay of *St. Andro*; and this was ſoon done by the *Achilles*, Captain *Barrington*, without any Loſs on his Side: The Fire of the Enemy both from the Fort and the Shore having paſſed over the Ship without hurting.

In the mean Time Sir *Thomas Stanhope*, with four Ships of War, the Battalions of *Gray* and *Stuart*, with 500 Marines in Tranſports, was oppoſite to *Sauſon*, in order to divide the Enemy's Forces, by amuſing them with a falſe Attack, while a real one was made at *St. Andro*; for no ſooner had Captain *Barrington* made the Signal that the Fort was ſilenced, than the flat-bottom Boats, under the Command of Captain *Barton* advanced ſpeedily to the Shore, and the Troops landed from them with great Briſkneſs in three different Places pretty near each other, and all drew up under the Eye of General *Crauford* and Brigadier *Carltoun*, who led them on to the Charge: By this Time it was about Eight o'Clock, when the Enemy, who lay concealed in the Fort that had been ſilenced by Captain *Barrington*, and behind a Breaſt-Work that had been raiſed on the

Side

Side of a Hill, begun to pour in their Shot both from the Artillery and ſmall Arms. The poor Men were ſhot at like Partridges; many of them fell, and the reſt finding no good to be done, it was thought proper to retire. The Chevalier *St. Croix* was here preſent in Perſon, and directed a maſked Battery of four Pieces of Cannon which flanked the Grenadiers; and obſerving the Flight to become general, he cauſed the Artillery to be carried nearer the Shore, in order to deſtroy the flat-bottomed Boats, as theſe were carrying off the Troops; however the Fire from the Ships, *viz.* the *Valiant*, the *Veſuvius* and *Ætna* Fireſhips, intirely covered the Retreat, which was made in as good Order as could be expected from Troops who had loſt ſome of their Officers, were attacked by a ſuperiour Enemy, and broken on every Quarter. The Loſs fell upon the Grenadiers, the *Scots* Fuziliers, and *Crauford*'s Independant Companies: Few of theſe eſcaped without being either killed, wounded, or taken Priſoners; and out of ſixty of *Erſkine*'s Grenadiers, who by a very difficult Aſcent got to the Top of a Hill near *Locmaria*, where they formed with great Skill, only twenty were carried from the Rocks, and theſe for moſt part wounded: It was a moving Spectacle to ſee many poor Men wading up to the Chin in Water, ſeeking for the Boats, while the Balls, both from their

Friends and Enemies, were whiſtling about them, and they expecting to die every Moment. In this unfortunate Attack about Six Hundred were killed, ſeveral Officers, but none of Rank; only Lieut. Colonel *Thomas*, who was wounded and taken Priſoner, died ſoon afterward; About three hundred were taken Priſoners, among whom Major *Macklin* and ſeventeen ſubaltern Officers: With no other Loſs to the Eenemy but that of two Officers killed and ſeven private Men; five Officers and fifty-four private Men wounded; they likewiſe took three Field Pieces, and twenty-four of the flat Boats, which by reaſon of the Tide leaving them could not be got off; and a freſh Gale of Wind ſpringing from Shore, the Tranſports were much damaged by Loſs of Anchors, Cables, and even ſome of their Boats: And what was worſe, the Weather continued ſo very tempeſtuous, that all Communication between the Ships was cut off except by Signals, and the mending of the Anchors and Cables was retarded. In this Situation Things continued for eight Days, during which Time ſeveral of the Soldiers died on Shipboard of the Wounds they had received; and as the *French*, notwithſtanding their boaſted Politeneſs, loaded ſome of their Pieces with vicious Nails, broken Iron and Glaſs, the wounded were the more incurable: Add to this that the violent Agitation of the Ships, occaſioned by the Violence

lence of the Waves, could not fail of being inconvenient to ſuch as were not accuſtomed to them. And yet all theſe Diſcouragements could not break the Reſolution of the Troops, who on the Eighteenth were joined by two Tranſports, who brought ſome battering Cannon, Mortars, and heavy Artillery, with a ſufficient Quantity of Bombs, Grenadoes, and other Implements, with Horſes for carrying of them, and what was well thought of, a few Light Horſes for communicating Orders more ſpeedily.

This Reinforement was of the greateſt Uſe, as it revived the ſinking Spirits of the Forces; and now it remained to do ſomething toward ſilencing the Voice of Clamour that was bellowing with all the Furiouſneſs of Rancour againſt the Earl of *Bute*, a Nobleman lately raiſed to the high Office of Principal Secretary of State to His Majeſty King *George* III. And here it may not be improper to ſay a few Things of him, as they perhaps will gain ſome Credit, being the real Truth, and flowing from one who never applied for a Favour from a Courtier, and who has been reviled and ſupplanted by Paraſites, who without any real Learning, have raiſed themſelves to Dignity.

This Noblemen is Great Grandſon to Lieutenant General *Talmaſh*, who loſt his Life in an Attempt upon *Breſt*, *Anno* 1695; he was born in *London*, is connected by Blood with

with many of the chief Nobility in *England*; is Nephew to *John* and *Archibald*, late Dukes of *Argyle*; is the lineal Repreſentative of a Family which in the Reign of *Edward* I. " al- " moſt equalled both in Power and Riches" * that of *Walter Stuart*, from whom was deſcended the numerous Race of Kings of that Name; and now he himſelf inherits all the Virtues of his Anceſtours: He has begun his Adminiſtration with ſigning a Congreſs to bring about a Peace: He has dealt honeſtly with the Publick, by communicating even the unfavourable Accounts he received, and it is obſervable that theſe differed but little from what were publiſhed by the Enemy; for no ſooner did Capt. *Ellis* of the *Eſcorte*, and Captain *Rook*, Aid de Camp to General *Hodgſon*, arrive, on the 19th of *April*, with Letters to Mr. *Pitt*, of Date the 12th and 13th, than both his Lordſhip and he thought proper to inſert theſe in the News Papers, as well as the more favourable Occurrences, which Captain *Barrington* brought afterwards on the 30th; and this leads to a Detail of that great Event which was retarded for ſome time through the Loſs of Boats, Anchors, Cables, and other neceſſary Implements

No

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* *See* Buchannan's *Account of the terrible Battle of* Falkirk, *faught between King* Edward I. *and the* Scots, July 22, 1297.

No ſooner did the Weather permit than the Ships approached as near as poſſible to examine the different Inlets to that almoſt impregnable Bulwark; and being intent upon Conqueſt, they conceived in their Thoughts the almoſt incredible Scheme of climbing over Rocks and Precipices whereon never Man had trod before. Both the Commodore and General ſaw into the Extent of the Scheme, and the other Officers readily agreed to it; for never did greater Harmony ſubſiſt between the Forces employed in two Services than at this Time; they aſſiſted each other to the utmoſt Wiſhes and moſt ſanguine Expectations of both.

Accordingly on the Morning of the 22d they made the neceſſary Preparations, and in a manner formed a Circle round the Iſland, which had the good Effect of making the Enemy fly to every Quarter for protecting of it. The Ports of *Sauzon*, *St. Palais*, and *Locmaria* which almoſt form the Length of *Belliſle* on the North, were attempted at once: Men of War, Tranſports and Flat-bottoms appeared before them at the ſame Time, while a Part of the Fleet rode off *Port du Guilfort* and *la Guiſton* on the Southern Quarter: Never were Troops ſeen in ſuch Agitation; and could a neutral Perſon without regard to the Conſquences have obſerved

ſerved it, he muſt have been diverted: For the Attention of thoſe on Shore was ſo diſtracted that they knew not where they might be moſt ſerviceable. In this Condition Things continued till about Four in the Afternoon, when Brigadier General *Lambert*, a gallant and enterpriſing Officer, with a Corps of 500 Grenadiers, performed a Service of great Importance to the Aſſailants, by ſurprizing a ſmall Fort belonging to the Enemy.

This was the only Place in the Iſland, which *M. S. Croix* reckoned moſt ſecure: It is ſituated on the Top of an high and almoſt inacceſſible Rock, which riſes obliquely from the Land, and is almoſt perpendicular toward the Sea, rendered it extreamly ſtrong, and in the Opinion of the Enemy impregnable: But as it commanded a full View of the whole Iſle, it was judged (by the Commodore) to be of great Conſequence, and to be the moſt proper Place for favouring any Landing that might be attempted. It was thought prudent to riſque any Danger for ſo great a Prize; ſcaling Ladders, and whatever elſe was neceſſary, were prepared with the utmoſt Secrecy and Diſpatch. The Fire from the *Swiftſure* and *Achilles* ſcoured the Rocks effectually, ſo that on the *French* Side every Thing was *ſecure:* Towards Five in the Evening the Granadiers arrived at the Bottom of the Rock; the Sun ſhone full upon them. It was where the largeſt of the Rocks was higheſt,

higheſt, that the Aſſailants made their Attempt, becauſe in that Place there were few Centinels, and they hoped to find them leaſt alert. The firſt Ladder was hardly fixed, when the Weight and Eagerneſs of thoſe who mounted it, brought it to the Ground; none of the Aſſailants were hurt by the Fall, and thoſe upon the Heights were out of reach of the Noiſe: Their Guide a Man of *Jerſey*, who knew *Bellisle* well, and *Lambert* ſcrambled up the Rock and faſtened the Ladder to the Roots of a Tree which grew in a Cleft. This Place was reached by about Forty of *Beauclerc*'s Grenadiers with the utmoſt Difficulty, who were ſtill at a great Diſtance from the Summit. Their Ladders were made faſt a ſecond time; but in the middle of the Aſcent they met with an unforeſeen Difficulty: One of the Soldiers was ſeized with ſome ſudden Fit, and clung, ſeemingly without Life, to the Ladder. All were at a Stand: It was impoſſible to paſs him; and to tumble him headlong was cruel: But *Lambert*'s Preſence of Mind did not forſake him; he ordered the Man to be bound faſt to the Ladder, that he might not fall when the Fit was over, and turning the other Side of the Ladder, they mounted with Eaſe over his Belly. Such as firſt attained the Summit lay flat on their Faces on the Ground 'till ſome more arrived, and theſe with Captain *Paterſon* at their Head marched toward the Country:

All was ſudden and unexpected on the Side of the Enemy, who immediately advanced to the Number of 300 Men to attack him. Never was a briſker Onſet, nor a more vigorous Repulſe in the Courſe of the War: The Conduct of each indicated a Bravery not to be intimidated by Danger, nor to be appaled by Fatigue. Without heſitating a Moment they run at each other, and after giving their Fire, attacked with ſkrewed Bayonets: In this Manner they continued about ten Minutes, when the reſt of *Lambert*'s Detachment getting up, the moſt Part of the Enemy, who were not killed or wounded, fled off with Precipitation, abandoning three Pieces of Cannon and their Wounded to the Mercy of the Conqueror, who on this Occaſion loſt 30 Men killed outright, and had 40 wounded, among whom Captain *Paterſon*, whoſe right Arm was ſhot away.

The Landing being effected, the Remainder jumped on Shore, and all marched to within three Miles of *Palais*, where they lay that Night under Arms, almoſt oppoſite to the Enemy, who were now rallied from every Quarter, and ſeemed deſirous of being attacked in their Intrenchments; but the Coolneſs of the Generals was too great to be impoſed on; and this prudent Care not to expoſe the Troops until the Artillery ſhould arrive was the Reaſon why a Reinforcement of Ammunition and Proviſions, that had

been

been landed at a northern Creek of the Iſland about four Hours before, was brought into the Citadel without being moleſted.

But the ſingle Victim on either Side was Sir *William Peer Williams*, who, being a Volunteer in the Service, rode out only with one Servant to reconnoitre the Situation of the Enemy: Unhappily for him he rode too far, and ſaying to his Attendant in *Engliſh*, *We have miſſed our Way*, he was overheard by a *French* Soldier, who lying proſtrate on his Belly, quickly roſe up, and diſcharging his Firelock ſhot the Gentleman dead on the Spot.

In order to crown the Expedition with the greater Honour, a violent Storm, an Enemy more formidable than the Garriſon of *Palais*, began to thwart them; All Communication with the Shipping was cut off for ſome Days; and of Courſe their Artillery and other Neceſſaries could not be ſent them. The Brigadier *St. Croix* laid hold of every Advantage: Batteries in *Barbete* were erected, while thoſe on the Ramparts and Counterguards were repaired, compleated, and enlarged; all the Paſſages were blocked up, and the Walls of the Houſes adjoining to them were pulled down; the Breaches in the Baſtions and Flanks were filled up; and ſuch of them as could not be finiſhed with Maſonry, for want of Time, were ſecured by Palliſadoes: Such Seamen as lived upon the Iſland wrought

at the Batteries; the Clergy of the four Pariſhes had a Liberty from the Biſhop of *Vannes* to act the Soldier: The valuable Plate and Ornaments of the Churches were carried into the Citadel; the Women animated their Huſbands, and wrought with the Shovels and Wheelbarrows, ſo that when General *Hodgſon*'s profered all Manner of Protection to ſuch of the Inhabitants as ſhould think fit to receive it, few or none, except old Men, Women, and Children, were found to accept the Terms.

In this Situation Things continued for five Days, when the Weather becoming moderate, and the Wind ſhifting, the Artillery was landed, and a Line of Circumvallation was drawn about the Town of *Palais:* The Soldiers, and ſuch as were found upon the Iſland, wrought upon the Trenches, which yet were retarded by the Scantineſs of the Earth that lay on the Surface: They were even obliged to carry Sand from the Shore for filling the Gabions, and erecting a Rampart on the Brink of the Trench. And what was ſtill more diſcouraging, ſeveral of our Parties were attacked, and many made Priſoners.

Under all theſe Diſadvantages, they had finiſhed one Parallel within point blank of the Redoubts, and had begun a ſecond much nearer, but finding the Approaches could not be properly carried on without attacking one of theſe detached Redoubts, the General

neral ordered 200 Men to attack the Redoubt which lay neareſt the right Flank of the Approaches. At Day-break of the firſt of *May* three 24 Pounders, one 12 Pounder, and one Hawitzer, with 35 Cohorns, begun to play upon it: Carcaſſes crammed full of every Combuſtible, broke upon the Parapet, and diſperſed deadly Ingredients around; ſo that the Party of *Begot*'s Regiment planted there ſuffered greatly; many were killed, and the Remainder, about twenty-five, ſurrendered to a Party of 200 Men diſpatched by the General to attack them with their Muſquetry: The carrying of this Redoubt ſtruck ſuch a Pannick in the *French*, that on the Approach of Captain *Smith* of *Loudon's*, the Captains *Campbell* and *Caruthers* of the Marines, the other two Redoubts ſubmitted after a faint Reſiſtance, in which the latter and fifty more were wounded, and 35 Men were killed The othet Redoubts ſoon followed; for Major *Neſbitt* marching againſt them at the Head of *Colvill*'s Regiment, they were quickly abandoned after firing a few Guns, ſome of which of 36 Pounders, and not without hurting the Aſſailants; for Major *Neſbitt*, and about ſixty more were wounded by the Stones which the Balls diſperſed among them.

'Tis needleſs to give a minute Deſcription of every ordinary Incident: A ſuperiour Artillery under the Direction of able Engineers

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can maſter any Fortification; and from this Time the *Britiſh* Artillery began to thunder with a more than ordinary Noiſe. Sufficient it is for our Purpoſe to ſay that there was daily ſkirmiſhing, in which many were killed and wounded on both Sides, and ſeveral were taken Priſoners: Among theſe was Colonel *Crawford*, and two of his Aid de Camps, with Fifty private Men.

On the Night between the fifth and ſixth of *May*, *M. de Garique* ſallied out of *Palais*, having a choſen Body of Men moſtly Granadiers from the ſeveral Regiments. His Information from the Priſoners was ſuch as could be depended on; and by favour of a dark Night, they were upon the Workmen in a Moment, and poured in upon them a full Volley from their ſmall Arms: Some were killed, many were wounded, and the remainder fled; as did the Independant Companies, who were there to ſuſtain them. Every Thing was in Confuſion; nor was any Reſiſtance made, except by two Companies of the regular Troops, one of which was *Crawford*'s own Battalion, and the other was made up of Draughts from the ſeveral Regiments: Lieut. *Morſon*, and many of theſe were killed, ſome wounded, and the unfortunate *Crawford* was brought into *Palais*, where the Governor received him with an uncommon Politeneſs, and promiſed to make his Situation as agreeable as poſſible.

From

From the 6th to the 13th nothing happened of Conſequence, except that Letters paſt frequently between the Commanders of the Expedition, and the Governor: The Purport of theſe was, that the *Britiſh* Priſoners might be conducted to *Vannes*, and that ſome *French* Surgeons might be allowed to attend ſuch of their wounded Countrymen as had been made Priſoners. The firſt was refuſed, but the latter was immediately granted; for Commodore *Keppel* declared that he would not allow a Man to land upon any Part of the Continent; and rather than ſuffer any Communication between it and *Palais*, a large Quantity of Proviſions was ſent to ſupport General *Crawford* and the other Priſoners, all which was regularly diſtributed under the Eye of the Governor.

But nothing could divert from the main Object; the Workmen were every Day buſier than another; and on the Night between the 13th and 14th the Town of *Palais* was attacked in three Places at once; and theſe were at the furtheſt Diſtance from each other. Happily for the *Britiſh* Troops, the Weather ſuddenly became calm, and the Sea ſmooth, ſo that Ten Boats laden with Marines under Capt. *Campbell* § landed at a Place where they were little expected; and the Moon which at that Time was involved in a Cloud, breaking forth

§ *Son to that Friend to Mankind the Principal of the College of* Glaſgow.

upon ſince the King's Acceſſion to the Throne, ſpared no Pains nor Trouble to procure it, as will appear from the frequent Supplies ſent to the Commanders.

Of theſe one ſailed from *Portſmouth* on the eighth of *May*, with a Reinforcement of 3000 Men, conſiſting of the Regiments of *Buckland*, Lord *Robert Manners*, five Companies of *Panmure*'s, and 700 of the Royal Volunteers, that had been left to guard the *French* Priſoners; a Company of Matroſſes, with a Supply of Ammunition and Proviſion; and what was more than All, a Letter from His Majeſty, incouraging them to their Duty, with a Promiſe of a ſufficient Reward. On the 14th the Regiment of *Old Buffs* was ſent off under Convoy of the *Warſpite* and *Torrington* Men of War; and on the 20th another Reinforcement, conſiſting of 700 Light-armed Infantry, with a great Number of Gabions, Faſcines, nay and of Turff to fill theſe; with 12 Mortars and 30 battering Cannon: And beſides all theſe, four Tranſports with live Oxen, Sheep, Hogs, and other Proviſions; the *Melampe* and *Fly* Sloops ſailed with another Reinforcement on the 31ſt of *May*. The Commodore took Care to let the *Britiſh* Miniſtry have Intelligence as ſoon as poſſible, by often ſending an Account of what paſſed. Among the other Expreſſes, Captain *Scroope*, of the *Hampton-Court* arrived at *Portſmouth* on the 20th of

May,

May, where getting on Shore in an open Boat, the ſame was overſet by a violent Squal, in which Lieutenant *Curtis* and another Perſon were waſhed overboard, but he himſelf eſcaped by the dextrous Management of an Oar. On the 25th the *Fly Sloop* arrived, and in it Colonel *Howe*, with an Account how the Town had been taken. On the third of *June* the *King-Fiſher Sloop* arrived at *Portſmouth*, and in four Hours ſet out again for *Palais*, whither the *Jaſon* Man of War ſailed next Day with Bombs, as did the *Hero*, the *Burford*, and *Monmouth*, to reinforce the Fleet, a Viſit being expected from the *French* Squadrons at *Breſt* and *Rochfort*, then conſiſting of eight Ships of 74 and ſix from 70 to 60 Guns: And on the 7th 300 Barrels of Powder, 42 Waggon-load of Shells, containing 12000 Bombs, and 12 Mortars of 18 Inches bore, the largeſt ever ſeen, were diſpatched from *Woolwich* Yard, to be carried from *Portſmouth*; all which weae in the beſt Repair, and fit for Uſe: The greateſt Diligence being uſed in cleaning the Shells, and doing every other Thing requiſite.

Many of theſe Reinforcements arrived time enough to haſten the Reduction of the Place, but others did not; for after a furious Canonnade, which was inceſſant from the third to the ſixth, and by which all the Guns in the Garriſon were diſmounted except two, the

Governo

Governor ſent a Flag of Truce, propoſing that the Place ſhould ſuraender on the 12th of *June* in caſe no Succours did arrive before that Time, and that in the mean time no Works ſhould be carried on, on either Side, nor any Act of Hoſtility, nor any Communication between the *Engliſh* and *French*: All which being refuſed, the Garriſon thought proper to compel the Governour to ſurrender the Place on the following moſt honourable Terms.

1, That the intire Garriſon ſhall march thro' the Breach with the Honours of War, Colours flying, lighted Matches, and three Pieces of Cannon, with twelve Rounds each, and every Soldier 15 Rounds in his Cartouch Box: 2 All the Officers, Serjeants, Soldiers and Inhabitants to carry off their Baggage to be tranſported to the Continent by the ſhorteſt Way; 3, And the *French* Troops to be conducted thither by the firſt fair Wind. 4, That theſe Troops are to be victualled in the ſame Proportion with the *Britiſh* Troops, and the ſame Proportion of Tonnage is to be allowed. 5, That when the Troops are imbarked, a Veſſel ſhall be furniſhed for the Governour, the King's Lieutenant, *M. de la Garique*, and to the Field Officers, including thoſe of the Artillery and Engineers, with the three Cannon, as well as for the Soldiers of the *Cour Royale*, to be tranſported to *Nantz*, with their Families and Baggage, which is not to

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be viſited, and that theſe are to be victualled in the ſame Proportion with the *Engliſh Officers* of the ſame Rank. 6, That a Gate of the Citadel ſhall be delivered to the Troops of His *Britannic* Majeſty the Moment the Capitulation is ſigned. 7, 8, 9, That the Subjects of *France* ſhall remain in the Iſland, under Protection of the King of *Great Britain*, or to be tranſported to the Continent if they pleaſe. 9, All the Inhabitants are to enjoy the free Exerciſe of their Religion; and if any of the Clergy die, theſe are to be replaced at the Pleaſure of his *Britannic* Majeſty. 11, The ſick Officers and Soldiers of the *French* ſhall be treated as the *Britiſh*, and to be tranſported with a ſufficient Allowance of Proviſions to the Continent after their Recovery. 12, That the Commiſſaries of Artillery and Engineers, who ſhall make out an Inventary of what may be found in the King's Magazines, ſhall be furniſhed with neceſſary Subſiſtence, till the Moment of their Departure, on the ſame Footing with the *Britiſh* Troops. 13, That the *Engliſh* Priſoners ſhall be free the Moment the Capitulation is ſigned, and the *French* Priſoners are to be exchanged according to the *Cartel* of *Sluys*.

That all the Archives, Regiſters, Public Papers and Writings of every Kind belonging to the Goverment of *Belliſle*, ſhall be faithfully delivered up, with all the warlike Stores

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and Proviſions: That all the Mines and Souterains of the Place be ſhewn, and whatever belongs to the moſt Chriſtian King ſhall be ſurrendered.

On this Capitulation Hoſtages were given on both Sides, and every Moment after the Articles proceeded to be fulfilled.

The *Britiſh* Colours were hoiſted on the Citadel directly, and the Fleet proclaimed the News to the Continent of *France*, by a general Diſcharge againſt the Point of *Quiberon* from all their Artillery. The Officers dined with each other in the moſt friendly Manner: And the different Articles were literally fulfilled. A prodigious Quantity of Bombs were found in the Arſenal, with 150 Pieces of Cannon, thirty Mortars, and Proviſion ſufficient to ſupply Six Thouſand Men for eight Months; while Captain *Barton* and Major *Rooke* were diſpatched to Mr. PITT with an Account of the Event, which being received at *London* about Nine o'Clock, *June* the 13th, the great Guns proclaimed it from the Park to the Populace, and the Tower Guns propagated it to the Villages along the Bank of the *Thames*. Every Thing was Gay: The Populace were reconciled to the great Man Lord BUTE, upon whom they were throwing their Reflections: The foreign Miniſters and Nobility congratulated the King on the Succeſs of his Arms; and now Addreſſes are crowding on the Throne from every Quarter.

FINIS.